

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Kodiak Office
 351 Research Court
 Kodiak, Alaska 99615



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
 Juneau, Alaska 99811
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release:

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Contact:

Kodiak and Alaska Peninsula – Nathaniel Nichols

Phone: 907-486-1840; Email: nathaniel.nichols@alaska.gov

Dutch Harbor and Bristol Bay–Bering Sea – Miranda Westphal

Phone: 907-581-1239; Email: miranda.westphal@alaska.gov

Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound – Jan Rumble

Phone: 907-235-8191; Email: janet.rumble@alaska.gov

Yakutat – Andrew Olson

Phone: 907-465-4259; Email: andrew.olson@alaska.gov

2021/22 Alaska Weathervane Scallop Guideline Harvest Levels

The 2021/22 weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Prince William Sounds (PWS; West Kayak Subsection only), Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and Bristol Bay–Bering Sea areas will open on July 1, 2021. The Cook Inlet Area and PWS East Kayak Subsection will be closed for the 2021/22 season. Guideline harvest levels (GHLs) and crab bycatch limits for the 2021/22 scallop season are listed below.

Registration Area/District	Guideline Harvest Level (pounds of shucked meat)	Crab bycatch limit (number of crab)	
		Tanner crab	King crab
Yakutat	145,000	NA	NA
Prince William Sound			
East Kayak Subsection	Closed	-	-
West Kayak Subsection	8,000	NA	NA
Cook Inlet	Closed	-	-
Kodiak			
Northeast District	30,000	18,000	25
Shelikof District	80,000	40,000	25
Southwest District	35,000	21,000	25
Southeast District	15,000	9,000	25
Semidi District	<i>Exploratory area</i>	NA	NA
Alaska Peninsula			
long 160° W to 161° W	7,500	3,750	25
Unimak Bight ^a	7,500	4,500	25
Dutch Harbor			
Bering Sea Waters	5,000	3,750	10
Pacific Ocean Waters	5,000	3,750	10
Bristol Bay-Bering Sea	7,500	18,750	100
		<u><i>C. opilio</i> and hybrids</u>	
		11,250	

^a Commissioner permit required to harvest scallops in Unimak Bight.

NA = Not applicable

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Vessel operators must obtain separate scallop interim-use dredge gear permit cards for state and federal waters from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) and a vessel registration from ADF&G prior to participating in the scallop fishery. Vessels are required to have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS) approved by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and vessels operating outside of the Cook Inlet Area are required to carry an onboard observer during all fishing activity. Vessels may not operate more than two dredges at one time and dredges may not be more than 15 feet wide, except in the Cook Inlet Area where legal gear is restricted to a single 6-foot-wide dredge.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will assess inseason fishery performance as measured by catch per unit effort (CPUE) and monitor crab bycatch. Poor fishery performance or excessive crab bycatch may result in area, or partial area, closures prior to achieving the full GHL.

Area specific scallop fishery, survey, and stock status information is presented in the *Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the Scallop Fishery of the Coast of Alaska (April 2021)* published by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) which may be found here:

<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=933e2466-5430-452f-bd9b-5ec166b3cbcf.pdf&fileName=C1%20Scallop%20SAFE%202021.pdf>

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak (907-486-1840), Douglas (907-465-4259), Dutch Harbor (907-581-1239), or Homer (907-235-8191).

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>

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